

Almost 7 years have passed since that September morning when nearly 3,000 men, women, and children were murdered in our midst. The attack changed our country forever. We realized America was at—a nation at war against a ruthless and persistent enemy. We realized that these violent extremists would spare no effort to kill again. And in the aftermath of 9/11, few would have imagined that we would be standing here 7 years later without another attack on American soil.

The fact that the terrorists have failed to strike our shores again does not mean that our enemies have given up. To the contrary, since 9/11, they've plotted a number of attacks on our homeland. Like Members standing up here, I receive briefings on the very real and very dangerous threats that America continues to face.

One of the important lessons learned after 9/11 was that America's intelligence professionals lacked some of the tools they needed to monitor the communications of terrorists abroad. It's essential that our intelligence community know who our enemies are talking to, what they're saying, and what they're planning. Last year, Congress passed temporary legislation that helped our intelligence community monitor these communications.

The legislation I am signing today will ensure that our intelligence community professionals have the tools they need to protect our country in the years to come. The DNI and the Attorney General both report that, once enacted, this law will provide vital assistance to our intelligence officials in their work to thwart terrorist plots. This law will ensure that those companies whose assistance is necessary to protect the country will themselves be protected from lawsuits from past or future cooperation with the government. This law will protect the liberties of our citizens while maintaining the vital flow of intelligence. This law will play a critical role in helping to prevent another attack on our soil.

Protecting America from another attack is the most important responsibility of the Federal Government, the most solemn obligation that a President undertakes. When I first addressed the Congress after 9/11, I carried a badge by the mother of a police officer who

died in the World Trade Center. I pledged to her, to the families of the victims, and to the American people that I would never forget the wound that was inflicted on our country. I vowed to do everything in my power to prevent another attack on our Nation. I believe this legislation is going to help keep that promise. And I thank the Members who have joined us. And now it's my honor to sign the bill.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:17 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. H.R. 6304, approved July 10, was assigned Public Law No. 110-261.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Economic Advisers

July 11, 2008

I want to thank the members of my economic team for assembling here at the Department of Energy. Secretary Bodman, thank you for hosting us. First of all, Secretary Paulson came by this morning to brief me on the financial markets. Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae are very important institutions. You spent a fair amount of time discussing these institutions. He assured me that he and Ben Bernanke will be working this issue very hard.

Secondly, he did inform us that 112 million stimulus payments have gone out, and I congratulate you and your Department for doing your job. We've so far spent about \$91 billion in tax relief, which has had a positive effect on retail sales. The problem, of course, is that gasoline prices are up, which has affected the people here in our country. And one of the main reasons why gasoline prices are up is because crude oil prices are up. And one reason crude oil prices are up is because demand is outstripping supply.

And therefore, what can we do about it? And that ought to be the question the United States Congress asks. And one way to deal with supply problems is to increase supply here in America. And one of the things we just went through at the briefing from Secretary Bodman and Secretary Kempthorne about the vast potential of crude oil reserves on offshore lands, as well as in Alaska, as well as in the oil shale in the western part of our

country. And yet the Democratic leaders of Congress have consistently blocked opening up these lands for exploration.

The other part of our briefing was how we could explore in environmentally friendly ways. Technology has changed dramatically to enable the exploitation of oil in a way that protects the environment. You know, these Members of Congress, particularly the Democratic leadership, must address this issue before they go home for this upcoming August break. They have a responsibility to explain to their constituents why we should not be drilling for more oil here in America to take the pressure off of gasoline prices.

I want to thank you all very much for your briefing. These are tough economic times for the American citizens. There is a way forward to help relieve some of their—some of the pressure on their pocketbooks. And I'm looking forward to seeing—watching this Congress respond in a positive way.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:38 a.m. at the Department of Energy.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Charlottesville, VA, where he toured Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

July 5

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Chitose, Japan, arriving the following afternoon.

July 6

In the afternoon, upon arrival at New Chitose Airport, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an arrival ceremony. They then traveled to the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa in Toyako, Japan.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a social dinner with Prime Minister Fukuda and his wife, Kiyoko.

July 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a working lunch and photo opportunity with Group of Eight (G-8) leaders and Africa outreach representatives. Later, he participated in a meeting with G-8 leaders and Africa outreach representatives.

In the evening, the President met with Junior 8 student leaders. Then he and Mrs. Bush attended entertainment and a social dinner with G-8 leaders and their spouses.

July 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in a G-8 summit meeting.

In the afternoon, the President participated in the G-8 summit official photograph. He then participated in a working lunch and meeting with G-8 leaders.

In the evening, the President participated in a working dinner with G-8 leaders.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania to the White House on August 29.

July 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in a meeting with G-8 leaders and outreach country representatives. He then participated in a meeting with the leaders of major economies.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a photo opportunity with the leaders of major economies. He then participated in a working lunch with G-8 leaders and outreach country representatives.

Later in the afternoon, the President met with President Lee Myung-bak of South